

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for sorting individual timber pieces of different dimensions and/or qualities into a number of mutually superposed sorting compartments (1), comprising:

a conveyer (2) for vertical transport along the infeed ends of the sorting compartments of individual timber pieces with their longitudinal direction approximately horizontal and transversely directed in relation to the longitudinal direction of the sorting compartments, and

a transfer device (12) for transferring a specific timber piece from the conveyor (2) to a specific sorting compartment,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transfer device (12) has at least one transfer member (13) per sorting compartment (1); and

wherein ~~that~~ each transfer member is movable between a passive position outside the path (4) of the conveyor and between said path and the sorting compartment and in conjunction with the infeed end of the sorting compartment, and an active position within the path of the conveyor for engagement with a timber piece carried by the conveyor and transferring it to the sorting compartment (1).

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the conveyor (2) has a substantially vertical and rectilinear path of movement (4) from above and downwards, which is located a slight distance (11) from the infeed ends of the sorting compartments, which lie substantially in a common vertical plane.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transfer members (13) are elongate and substantially straight with a slightly obliquely upwardly end section, and extend in their active positions in the longitudinal direction out from the infeed ends of the sorting compartments (1) and with the end sections section slightly obliquely upwards towards the conveyor (2).

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said transfer members (13) have roller paths (14) at least on the upper side of the an end sections section.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the an end sections section of the transfer members (13) ~~have~~ has circulating driven belts on which the timber pieces rest and which impart to the timber pieces an additional movement in a direction towards a sorting compartment (1).

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said transfer members (13) are movable in a substantially translation movement to and from active position.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein ~~onto~~ the translation movement of the transfer member (13) in the a region of its active position on return towards the passive position, there is superposed a downwardly directed movement component at the end section of the transfer member.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, characterized in that~~

An apparatus for sorting individual timber pieces of different dimensions and/or qualities into a number of mutually superposed sorting compartments, comprising:

a conveyor for vertical transport along infeed ends of the sorting compartments of individual timber pieces with their longitudinal direction approximately horizontal and transversely directed in relation to the longitudinal direction of the sorting compartments, and
a transfer device for transferring a specific timber piece from the conveyor to a specific sorting compartment,

wherein the transfer device has at least one transfer member per sorting compartment;

wherein each transfer member is movable between a passive position outside the path of the conveyor and in conjunction with the infeed end of the sorting compartment, and an active position within the path of the conveyor for engagement with a timber piece carried by the conveyor and transferring it to the sorting compartment;

wherein said transfer members are movable in a substantially translation movement to and from active position,

wherein the translation movement for the transfer members (13) is of adjustable length.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the conveyor (2) has carriers (5) for supporting a timber piece with approximately horizontal longitudinal direction; and that the carriers incline obliquely downwards in a direction towards the infeed ends of the sorting compartments (1).

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 3 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said carriers (5) and the end sections of said transfer members (13) have approximately the same inclination.

11. (New) An apparatus for sorting individual timber pieces of different dimensions and/or qualities into a number of mutually superposed sorting compartments, comprising:


a conveyor for transport along infeed ends of the sorting compartments of individual timber pieces with their longitudinal direction approximately horizontal and transversely directed in relation to the longitudinal direction of the sorting compartments;

a transfer device for transferring a specific timber piece from the conveyor to a specific sorting compartment, the transfer device having at least one transfer member in association with each sorting compartment, and

each transfer member having a gripping position for gripping a timber piece carried by the conveyor, a transfer position for transferring the timber piece gripped in the gripping position into the associated sorting compartment and a passive, inoperative rest position, said rest position and said transfer position being both located on the same side of the conveyor, which is that side facing the sorting compartments.

12. (New) An apparatus for sorting individual timber pieces of different dimensions and/or qualities into a number of mutually superposed sorting compartments, comprising:

a conveyor for transport along infeed ends of the sorting compartments of individual timber pieces with their longitudinal direction approximately horizontal and transversely directed in relation to the longitudinal direction of the sorting compartments;

 each transfer member being movable from a rest position to a gripping position in a direction from the infeed ends of the sorting compartments towards the conveyer to grip a timber piece carried thereby and then back again to a transfer position where the timber piece gripped in the gripping position is transferred to a specific sorting compartment.
